

October 2, 2006

Attributes that the Imperial County Farm Bureau feels is important in choosing a preferred alternative for the Salton Sea.

MAINTAIN FARM VIABILITY

USFWS will be funded to continue to provide food for any increase in wintering waterfowl to reduce crop depredation

Salton Sea maintains its Federal designation as an Agricultural Sump for untreated farm run-off

Large enough body of water in southern end of Salton Sea to preserve the existing microclimate that agriculture depends on to maintain the current land values and cropping patterns

No water or water rights would be guaranteed to the Salton Sea nor would the Sea be in competition with agricultural for water (rights)

Compatible with varying amounts of inflow, both high and low and viable with inflows perpetually lower than average projections, such as would be the case if farms eliminate tailwater

Leaching of the exposed salt playa using existing drain water behind temporary dredged dikes to create additional farmable acreage if water is available in the future and allow for less salt tolerant plants to be grown for air mitigation

Irrigation water quality remains the same

No increase in farm field's subsurface water table

No harm to crops due to poor air quality

Prevent or adequately mitigate air quality issues at no cost to the farmers of Imperial Valley

No TMDL's required as a result of a restoration plan that would create any economic burden for farmers

Freedom for farmers to plant whatever crops they desire

Would be compatible with existing farm use

Would prevent flooding of surrounding croplands

Cost of the restoration of the Salton Sea would not fall on the backs of the Imperial Valley Farmers

HABITAT RESTORATION

Bird populations maintained or increased above current levels

Quality of bird habitat in and around the Sea as well as on the farmland

Habitat for diversity of fish both large and small

Permanently protect all wildlife dependent on the Salton Sea ecosystem

WATER

No water deeper than 12 meters in the Sea to prevent buildup of poisonous hydrogen sulfide

Maintain a shoreline of the Salton Sea on all sides

AIR QUALITY

Fugitive dust control on exposed playa (white salt dust)

Would reduce salt concentrations between high beach line and receding water shore line

ECONOMICS

Would not economically benefit the north end more than the south end